

# ILLINOISANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Illinoisans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Illinois. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Illinois.*

## **INCOME: ILLINOISANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Illinois was \$ 53,244.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Illinois was \$ 48,008, a significant drop of 9.8 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN ILLINOIS HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Illinois had 1,651,000 adults without insurance (13.6 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Illinois had 1,802,000 adults without insurance (14.3 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Illinois had 281,432 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup> If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, Illinois will face a funding shortfall of \$234,418,000.<sup>6</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN ILLINOIS**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Illinois was \$9,533.<sup>7</sup> In 2005, it was \$12,803, a 34 percent increase.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Illinois was \$21,941.<sup>9</sup> In 2005, it was \$26,966, a 23 percent increase.<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Illinoisans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 181,998<sup>11</sup>
- Number of Illinoisans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 143,509<sup>12</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Illinois was \$1.472 a gallon.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Illinois is \$2.455 a gallon.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Illinois was \$1,871.<sup>15</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Illinois is \$3,120, \$1,249 (66.8 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>16</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: ILLINOISANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security beneficiaries in Illinois – 1,883,250<sup>17</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per beneficiary in Illinois – \$915<sup>18</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: ILLINOISANS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Illinoisans killed in Iraq – 105<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Illinoisans wounded in Iraq – 774<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Illinoisans killed in Afghanistan – 11<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Illinoisans wounded in Afghanistan – 37<sup>22</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Illinois – 896,640<sup>23</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING ILLINOIS'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 1,395 estates in Illinois paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- Only 322 estates in Illinois will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>25</sup>
- In contrast, 103,000 workers in Illinois would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.<sup>26</sup>

## **CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING**

- Amount of COPS Funding dispersed in 2002 – \$16,758,632<sup>27</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding dispersed in 2006 – \$6,394,838<sup>28</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST ILLINOISANS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Illinoisans.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Illinois residents each received an average of \$3,744 in tax cuts, while middle class Illinois residents received only \$410.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Illinois residents will receive an average of \$54,971 in tax cuts, while middle class Illinois residents will only receive \$715.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Illinois residents will each receive an average of \$108,809 in tax cuts, while middle class Illinois residents will only receive \$827.<sup>31</sup>

**The richest Illinoisans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Illinoisans received 8.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.9 percent of the tax cut.<sup>32</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Illinoisans will get 32.4 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.4 percent of the tax cut.<sup>33</sup>

- And, in 2010, the richest Illinoisans will get 54.4 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.3 percent of the tax cut.<sup>34</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Illinoisans.**

- In 2010, the richest Illinoisans will receive an average of \$15,749 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Illinoisans will be getting over 50.8 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>35</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Illinoisans will receive an average of \$59 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.8 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>36</sup>

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